

WHAT OUR BODIES ARE WORTH

By PAUL DE LANEY

THE courts are cold blooded, and do not place the value of a woman's shapely limbs, coquettish eyes, and symmetrical form at nearly so high a figure as would her sweetheart or her admirers or relatives. They do not consider any part of a woman's body so valuable as a similar part of a man's body. The value of her leg comes more nearly reaching the value of a man's leg than any other part, in the relative measure of values by the legal tribunals.

From a sentimental point of view this would seem unreasonable; but a thorough examination of every decision of the different Supreme Courts of the various States discloses the cold facts in the case. Out of twenty-two cases where the highest verdicts were sustained for personal injuries, where men and women were almost similarly injured, the twenty-two men received a total of \$292,957 against the twenty-two women's total of \$150,738.82 in damages. These figures are taken from the largest verdicts ever given, and the ratio in smaller verdicts for similar injuries shows a falling off in greater proportion.

The biggest verdict ever allowed a woman which was sustained by the Supreme Court was for \$16,338.82. This sum was allowed a Mrs. Kenney against the South Shore Gas & Electric Company by the Court of Appeals of New York. She was frightfully and permanently disfigured by an explosion of gas.

But the Supreme Court of Rhode Island allowed a man by the name of Carr \$22,895 for similar injuries against the American Locomotive Company as damages resulting from a boiler explosion; and only lately a man frightfully injured in a railroad accident near New York was awarded a judgment for \$75,000—although this hasn't yet been passed upon by the higher court.

The next highest verdict ever sustained in favor of a woman for personal injuries was that of a Mrs. White of Alabama, who at the age of sixty-four years and when in good health was made a hopeless cripple in a railroad accident. The railroad company had to pay her \$16,000. But the Texas Supreme Court compelled a railroad company to pay \$30,000 to a brakeman by the name of Gray who was no worse injured.

EVEN the spine of a man is valued by the courts at a higher rate than that of a woman. The Texas courts allowed a Mrs. Probandt \$15,000 for the fracture of her spine; while the Supreme Court of Arkansas allowed Brown, a brakeman, \$25,000 for such an injury. The jury gave Brown \$50,000; but the court reduced it one-half.

Against the \$12,750 allowed Miss Hoskovec of Nebraska, who was made a mental and physical wreck in a railroad accident, a man by the name of Yeagan in Texas was allowed \$18,962.

A woman's leg comes more nearly being an equal in value to that of a man, according to the courts, than any other member of her body. A Miss Bugge of Seattle was allowed \$14,500 for the loss of her leg, and \$500 for the surgeon's bill; while a man by the name of Freeman in Texas was allowed \$15,000 straight. Freeman was forty-seven, and Miss Bugge was thirty-one.

For a fracture and the shortening of a leg as a consequence, Miss Nedry, a woman teacher, was allowed \$5,000 by the Arkansas courts; while a man by the name of Lannon in Illinois was allowed \$15,000 for similar injuries.

For the fracture of a hip Miss Bouknight, a government clerk, was allowed \$7,500 by the courts of Virginia, against \$12,500 allowed an electrician by the name of Shaklee in Texas.

The eye of a man is worth \$11,000; while that of a woman is worth only \$7,500, according to the version of the courts of this country. The federal court allowed a Russian immigrant woman the smaller sum; while the Texas Supreme Court allowed a boiler maker's helper the larger sum for the loss of an eye.

It costs just five times as much to paralyze a man through negligence as it does to inflict the same injuries on a woman, according to Texas and Illinois courts. For a partial paralysis East St. Louis paid a Mrs. Cole \$7,000; while the Kansas City Southern Railroad Company paid a switchman by the name of Gordon \$35,000. The injuries are described as about the same in seriousness.

The hearing of a man is much more valuable in law than the hearing of a woman, according to Kentucky and Texas courts. The former allowed a Mrs. Ackerman \$7,500 in aggravating circumstances; while the latter court allowed a locomotive engineer

\$15,000. The jury had allowed him \$25,000; but the court cut off \$10,000.

And a man's ribs are much more valuable than those of a woman, according to Texas and Arkansas courts. The five broken ribs of a Texas brakeman cost a railroad company \$20,000; while the breaking of three ribs of a married woman cost a railroad in Arkansas only \$1,000.

Even the ill shaped fingers of a man are more valuable in law than the pretty, shapely fingers of a woman. Barnes of Texas, a laborer, was allowed \$9,000 for the loss of three middle fingers; while Mrs. McNally, a machine operator in Kentucky, was allowed \$6,500 for the loss of her thumb on the right hand, forefinger on her left hand, and injury to forefinger on the right.

And a man's nervous system is subject to a more damaging shock than that of a woman, according to the courts. A business man in Arkansas was allowed \$16,000 for a blasting shock to his nervous system; while a Mrs. Swann, age thirty-seven, was allowed \$8,000 by the Texas courts. This was cut down from a verdict of \$13,000 allowed by the jury.

Other comparative allowances:

Fracture of leg.—Man, \$10,000; woman, \$3,500.
Injury to leg.—Man, \$7,500; woman, \$4,000.
Fracture of arm.—Man, \$6,000; woman, \$1,200.
Fracture of knee.—Man, \$3,000; woman, \$2,500.
Fracture of ankle.—Man, \$10,000; woman, \$7,500.
Injury to foot.—Man, \$6,000; woman, \$3,500.
Injury to shoulder.—Man, \$2,600; woman, \$1,550.
Fractured wrist.—Man, \$3,000; woman, \$2,500.
Injury to hand.—Man, \$4,500; woman, \$900.

THE HUMBLE BARNACLE

BARNACLES, which constitute a most curious form of marine life, do not, so far as known, perform any important function in the economy of nature, either constructive or destructive.

Curiously enough, naturalists assign barnacles to that great subdivision of the animal world which includes insects; i. e., *Arthropoda* ("joint-footed"). Barnacles pertain to that class of crustaceans which includes lobsters and crabs, and constitutes the order of *Cirripedia*, a term that means "curled feet."

Barnacles are hatched from eggs. The young in no respect resemble adults. When the newly born barnacle emerges from its egg it shows itself as a free-swimming little creature, with one eye, six legs, and one shell. It undergoes the operation of molting several times, and finally appears with two eyes, twelve legs, and two shells. When it has attained this stage of development it roves no longer, but attaches itself to some convenient object by means of its antennae, secreting a sort of cement whereby it glues itself quite fast. It is then that it undergoes a metamorphosis that completely changes its appearance. It loses its bivalve shell and its eyes, and acquires its characteristic feathery legs. Furthermore, it takes on an entirely new shell.

Three orders of barnacles are listed. Members of one order are attached by the shell directly to rocks, timbers, or other convenient objects. Those of another order are attached to floating objects by means of a long stalk. The barnacles of the third order are parasitic upon crabs and other marine creatures. When extended from the shell the curled, feathery appendages are in constant motion, serving to create currents in the water which convey to the curious little creatures their food, consisting of many species of minute forms of life.

"Sea acorns" are nothing more than barnacles of the genus *Balanus*. There are a number of varieties of these, having shells of white, greenish white, pink, or purplish color. These barnacles attach themselves to rocks, shellfish, the piling of piers, and sometimes even to whales. The base of the shell is glued fast to the supporting object, there being no stem.

Ship barnacles are true wanderers of the deep, since the same species are frequently upon the hulls of vessels proceeding from the most remote and widely separated regions. They present an odd appearance; for the shell is attached to the end of a flexible stalk, which varies in length from an inch in some species to twelve inches in others. Generally speaking, the shell of the ship barnacle is of a white or bluish white hue, and the stalk is brown or slate-colored.



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